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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT Political Information: Activities of Masud Sabri and Ahmad Jan Kasimi, Sinkiang Province
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. The Soviet-supported "East Turkestan People's Republic" (Ining Government) has begun large-scale operations in various parts of Sinkiang Province, and their hidden strength in these areas is said to have become quite formidable. At present, the Manass River has been fixed as the "temporary boundary line" between the "East Turkestan People's Republic" and the Chinese Sinkiang Province, and the barter of goods between these two governments is carried on across this "border line."

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[] Comment. The following appeared in the 9 June 1948 issue of the Nanking Jen Pao: "...Burhan, National Assembly delegate from Sinkiang, said that prices are soaring rapidly in Sinkiang and now an egg costs 15,000 Sinkiang dollars.....To improve the economic situation in Sinkiang, he hoped that Sino-Soviet trade could be resumed soon.")

2. Uighur natives of the "East Turkestan People's Republic", dispatched by the Soviet authorities, freely cross this line to Tihua and other important cities, where they kidnap persons who are opposed to their Republic and return with the prisoners to their own territory.
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3. Sinkiang Governor Masud Sabri ([]), a native Uighur, appears to have some sort of understanding with the authorities of the "East Turkestan People's Republic" because his wife, Sana (?), and their three sons are still in the territory of this Republic.
4. Masud Sabri has formulated a plan for gaining a "high degree of self-government" for Sinkiang Province to be followed by an independent Sinkiang republic. The real motive behind this plan is not known. Masud Sabri is a Kuomintang official and a member of the CC Clique.
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5. Ahmad Jan Kasimi ([]), former Deputy Governor of Sinkiang and a graduate of Moscow University, who has already proclaimed the existence of the "East Turkestan People's Republic," has plans underway to expand this Republic to include ultimately the whole of Sinkiang Province. Against this threat, the Chinese Government is in a very unfavorable position and cannot take positive steps. One possible explanation of Masud Sabri's plan is that it is part of a political move of the Chinese Government to set up a buffer zone between the "East Turkestan People's Republic" and China proper. Another possible explanation is that Masud Sabri saw the futility of fighting against the popular movement and feeling for "racial" (ethnic) independence in Sinkiang and envisaged his plan as a means of maintaining his position. The return to Sinkiang of Sinkiang representatives to the National Assembly ([]) will definitely affect the future political situation in the Province.
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Comment. For Chinese-language press releases bearing in part on the above information, see "On the Matter of Popular Election of the Governor and Vice-Governor of Sinkiang", an article in the 14 April 1948 issue of the Ta Kung Pao, Shanghai; "Ining's Reply to General CHANG Chih-chung's Letter" in the 18 January 1948 issue of the Ho Ping Jih Pao, Shanghai; and "General CHANG Chih-chung's Reply to Ining's Reply" in the 21 January 1948 issue of the Ho Ping Jih Pao, Shanghai.)

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